

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 AID-05 /090 W

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R 251311Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6856

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 18107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PH, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: REPORTED MOVES TOWARD A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT OF LONRHO INDUSTRIES TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER HE HAS SEEN SMITH-NKOMO AGREEMENT ON RHODESIA'S FUTURE BASED ON MAJORITY RULE. THE DOCUMENT RESULTS FROM A "PACKAGE" DESIGNED TO INDUCE KAUNDA'S SUPPORT. REPORTER IN LONDON'S OBSERVER NEWSPAPER CLAIMS TO HAVE A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. PRESIDENT OF LONRHO INDUSTRIES, TINY ROWLAND, INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT DURING HIS VISIT LAST WEEK TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE HAD BEEN SHOWN BY ANC LEADER JOQHUA NKOMO A COPY OF THE PROPOSED RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS AGREEMENT WITH IAN SMITH. ROWLAND SAID THE AGREEMENT IS ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE DOCUMENT CONSID-
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ERED AT THE ABORTED VICTORIA FALLS TALKS LAST AUGUST, IN-

CLUDING PROVISION FOR SIGNATURES BY VORSTER AND KAUNDA AS WITNESSES AND GUARANTORS. IN FACT, ROWLAND CLAIMED, THE LAST PIECE TO BE FITTED TO THE PUZZLE IS KAUNDA'S FINAL ACCORD, A TASK WHICH NKOMO PLANS TO ACCOMPLISH SHORTLY.

2. PARAGRAPH THREE IS THE KEY PROVISION, ACCORDING TO ROWLAND. IT CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE BASED ON A UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE. NKOMO CONFIDED TO ROWLAND THAT HE ENVISAGED IN RAPID SUCCESSION A PLENARY MEETING OF PARTIES CONCERNED (DECEMBER), DRAFTING SUB-COMMITTEES IN RHODESIA TO DRAW UP CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES (JANUARY/FEBRUARY), A SANCTIFYING CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON (APRIL/MAY) AND RHODESIAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER). IN BRIEF, AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE BEFORE THE END OF 1976.

3. IN EXCHANGE FOR KAUNDA'S SUPPORT, ROWLAND SAID, THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT HAD BEEN OFFERED BY VORSTER A GUARANTEE OF A SECURE AND OPEN BORDER WITH RHODESIA AND RESUMED SHIPMENT OF ZAMBIAN COPPER AT 1973 RATES. KAUNDA HAS ONLY TO ENDORSE NKOMO PUBLICLY AND, ACCORDING TO ROWLAND, AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOHANNESBURG-LUSAKA AIR SERVICE, FIRST FOR FREIGHT AND LATER FOR PASSENGERS. ROWLAND CALLED THESE ARRANGEMENTS A "PACKAGE DEAL," AND LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ITS ACHIEVEMENT. ASSUMING KAUNDA GOES ALONG, ROWLAND PREDICTED THAT THE NKOMO-SMITH AGREEMENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. HE SAID A QUICK ANNOUNCEMENT AND AN EARLY CONVOCATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL DELEGATES IS AIMED TO HAM STRING PLANS BY THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION COUNCIL TO LAUNCH ITS GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE IN JANUARY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BRITISH PRESS HAS OF LATE RE-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 18107

PORTED BITS OF EVIDENCE POINTING TO AN IMMINENT RHODESIAN AGREEMENT. THE MOST CONVINCING OF THESE APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER 23 EDITION OF THE OBSERVER WHERE JOURNALIST DAVID MARTIN CLAIMS TO HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF AN EIGHT-POINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN NKOMO AND SMITH. CLAUSE THREE, ACCORDING TO MARTIN, READS, "BOTH PARTIES PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR COMMITMENT TO WORK OUT IMMEDIATELY A CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL BE AGREEABLE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY." CLAUSE FOUR CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE PLENARY MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANC AND THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE ISSUES OF A CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT. CLAUSE FIVE RESOLVES THE IMMUNITY STUMBLING BLOCK BY GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND SPEECH FOR ANC REPRESENTATIVES WHILE IN RHODESIA. FINALLY, MARTIN, WITH SOME PLEASURE, QUOTES CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAUSE EIGHT, WHICH LAYS OUT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND AN UNDERTAKING BY THE PARTICIPANTS "NOT TO REVEAL ANY DETAILS TO THE PRESS OR OTHER MEDIA."

5. ALTHOUGH THE REPORTED AGREEMENT APPARENTLY ANSWERS THE IMMUNITY QUESTION, IT MAY HAVE COME TOO LATE TO PATCH UP THE RIFT IN THE ANC LEADERSHIP. MARTIN QUOTES KAUNDA IN SUMMING UP THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DOCUMENT: "IF MR. NKOMO CLINCHES AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. SMITH ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE, THEN THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION COUNCIL LED BY BISHOP MUZOREWA WOULD BECOME IRRELEVANT. AND IF HE DOES NOT, THEN HE WILL BECOME IRRELEVANT." END

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